

2025 NYC SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PARKS & RECREATION-032

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AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation manages 14 percent of the land in New York City with facilities ranging from playgrounds and large parks, to tranquil wooded areas and more than 14 miles of beaches. Parks serve as New Yorkers' backyards, as vital meeting areas for outdoor play and recreation – but also as an important tool in mitigating the effects of climate change, critical engines for economic growth and development.

NYC Parks' mission is to grow, maintain, and program a world-class park system prioritizing equity, access, safety, and nature.

Highlights of Parks' work over the last year include:

- Launching the Vital Parks for All plan, an initial investment of over \$3.2 billion across ten strategic initiatives to expand greenspace access, promote public safety, and engage New Yorkers in the stewardship of their local parks. Vital Parks for All delivers a plan to restore aging park facilities, bring new park resources where they are needed most, and empower New Yorkers with the data they need to advocate for their public greenspaces. This included the creation of the Vital Parks Explorer, a digital map that provides New Yorkers with data on park conditions to help them advocate for strategic investments and show how their parks compare to other communities across NYC.

- Joining Mayor Adams to launch “Let’s Swim NYC,” a more than \$1 billion capital investment in building, improving, and protecting New York City’s public pools over the course of five years. This funding marks the city’s highest investment in swimming infrastructure since the 1970s and includes two brand-new pools.

- Keeping New Yorkers healthy in the face of extreme heat by planting nearly 18,000 new trees, our highest tree planting total in the past six fiscal years — with a special focus on neighborhoods impacted by high heat vulnerability.

- Deploying additional “second shift” maintenance services to approximately 100 hot spots throughout the five boroughs, giving extra cleaning attention to the sites that most needed it. We also unveiled special trash receptacles designed specifically for pizza boxes, giving New Yorkers a place to dispose of their bulky boxes while limiting the food available to rodents.

- Helping visitors enjoy our greenspaces more comfortably by installing new baby changing tables in over 1,200 restrooms citywide, while also launching an ambitious initiative to build 46 new restrooms and renovate 36 existing restrooms throughout the five boroughs.

The work of our staff goes far beyond the maintenance of New York City’s nearly 30,000 acres and more than 2.5 million trees. Parks is the City’s leading programmer of cultural, athletic, and social activities, including nature walks, volunteer programs, sports clinics, historic house tours, and much more. In addition, Parks produces special events, concerts and movie premieres, and manages agreements with more than 300 businesses that operate on public parkland.

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation manages right-of-way and park trees across all five boroughs. Over 650,000 of those trees line the streets; of those trees, almost 175,000 are in Brooklyn. The Tree Planting Program, part of the Environment & Planning Division, manages the planting of 15,000–18,000 new street and park trees each year, including 4,000– 5,000 new street trees in Brooklyn each year.

Foresters in our program are responsible for both field surveys of potential tree planting locations and for the overall project management of one or more capital tree planting contracts. Interns will help further the department’s mission by assisting in the collection and analysis of data essential for effective management of New York City’s urban forest.

POSITION TITLE

Brooklyn Street Tree Intern

INTERNSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Interns will assist NYC Parks by performing thorough and accurate inspections of potential street tree planting locations and by recommending species to be planted at each location. Interns will also inventory existing trees and inspect the condition of recently-planted trees. Interns will be responsible for maintaining clean, tidy, and accurate data throughout the survey and inventory process.

There will also be opportunity for assisting with project management tasks, as well as for other independent or collaborative projects in the interns' specific areas of interest. However, interns will spend the majority of their time working independently on the streets of Brooklyn inspecting potential tree planting locations or existing trees.

Interns will learn about NYC's urban forest and about the factors involved in making management decisions for the urban forest, particularly regarding the placement of new street trees. Interns will also be exposed to project management skills and gain experience working with large datasets.

Finally, interns will gain experience working within the context of a municipal government office.

QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL SKILLS/AREAS OF INTEREST

Minimum college sophomore standing with an interest in urban forestry, horticulture, plant science, or related fields. Preference will be given to students studying forestry or a related subject.

Familiarity with Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets is required, and familiarity with GIS software (especially ESRI products) is a plus. Familiarity with tree identification, especially of common urban trees of the northeastern U.S., is useful, but can also be taught as part of the internship.

Interns will be required to work independently outdoors in a variety of weather conditions and to utilize NYC's public transportation system.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please email cover letter and resume to Leslie.Nusblatt@parks.nyc.gov